

Here's what NSLI-Y participants have said about their 2009 overseas intensive language program.

From eating fried frogs with my host parents to playing basketball with my host brother's friends, this summer has been a cultural exchange, as well as a language-learning experience. It has convinced me China is the place to be. Summer 2009 Chinese Participant

Not only did I learn a lot of Russian, but now I feel like I have a reason to continue studying Russian, something that I never truly felt with other languages I have studied. Summer 2009 Russian Participant

This summer, he had actual instruction that was geared to his language level, and the teachers were quite skilled. He feels that he made significant progress, and has now adjusted his college search to include schools that have instruction in the Russian language. (There you go--a life long influence!) Parent of a Summer 2009 Russian Participant

To come to China as an American means to realize that there's something out there drastically different what you know, but so much better than you could have dreamed. Summer 2009 Chinese Participant

As I finished my post-program survey while chatting with my new friends from the trip on Facebook (the NSLI-Y 2009 reunion is already being planned), I came to acknowledge that, because of this study abroad program, I am a fuller person....[Our teacher] taught us splendidly and I can honestly say that, as a student, my ability to learn has been markedly improved by [my teacher's] practical advice and expert teaching....As I said before, I know that I will never forget this experience. I know my life has been altered and I truly appreciate the wonderfully rewarding summer of a lifetime! Summer 2009 Chinese Participant

I would like to express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to participate in the NSLI-Y program in Morocco this summer. The experience was unlike one I have experienced before and I thank you for supporting this program from which I learned so much about the Arabic language as well as the Arab culture. Summer 2009 Arabic Participant

He wants to study audio engineering in college, and he would at least like to know Russian is offered as well.

Parent of a Summer 2009
Russian Participant

Visiting Shanghai has not only developed my Chinese language skills but has helped me to grow as an individual as well. I know view others' cultures and differences in a new, appreciative light, and I am forever grateful to NSLI-Y for positively changing my outlook.

Summer 2009 Chinese Participant

In China, a short walk to the local bakery or fruit stand is a culture and language master class; whether in the classrooms or on the streets of Shanghai, there is something to be learned around every corner.

Summer 2009 Chinese Participant

I am still amazed that NSLI-Y even exists and how much easier it was in Russia for me to tackle the figurative "wall" of Russian grammar and vocabulary which before had kept me from getting any further. Hopefully I'll be able to start a year ahead in Russian class at my college this fall thanks to these last 7 weeks, and I'm already looking into opportunities for studying in Russia during college. It really was a wonderfully positive experience which has definitely given me the motivation to continue with my studies in Russian and a great interest in Russian culture.

Summer 2009 Russian Participant

The above quotations have been excerpted from thank-you e-mails received by American Councils, its NSLI-Y Consortium members and its sub-grantees from participants and their parents from the 2009 summer intensive overseas language programs.